

State of HARMONY

a plan for Missouri's people and land



*“Conservation is a state
of harmony between
people and land.”*

—ALDO LEOPOLD



DEAR MISSOURIANS,

I was watching floaters launch from a gravel bar recently when a couple who had obviously never been in a canoe before set out. They sat facing each other in the canoe and paddled hard, but the canoe just drifted along. They were paddling against each other. I shouted, "Turn around!"

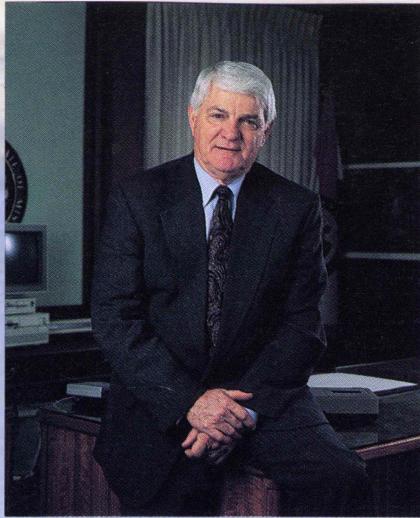
Unfortunately, they both turned around. They paddled even harder, but continued to cancel out the other's effort. Their canoe still drifted.

I think of that canoeing couple often. To go forward, it's necessary to pull together.

Having a common goal — in our case, conservation of the state's fish, forest and wildlife resources — doesn't ensure everyone works together to reach it. That's why we at the Conservation Department are issuing this, our second Strategic Plan, for the years 1996 through 2000. It not only sets a course, it coordinates our efforts so we're pulling together for the health of the state's resources.

As we approach the year 2000, we can measure much progress since the citizens of Missouri created the Conservation Department by constitutional amendment in 1937. But it would be wrong to rest on the laurels of past achievements; the future holds even greater challenges.

With your support, I'm confident the Conservation Department will succeed well into the next millennium, caring for your fish, forest and wildlife resources. This plan outlines how we'll pull together. I hope you'll join the effort as we head for the distant shore of the future.



SINCERELY,

JERRY J. PRESLEY,
DIRECTOR



CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	4
<i>THE VISION: A STATE OF HARMONY</i>	6
<i>THE ISSUES</i>	6
<i>THE GOALS FOR -</i>	
<i>PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS</i>	10
<i>PRIVATE LANDS AND WATERS</i>	12
<i>INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS</i>	14
<i>EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION</i>	16
<i>RESEARCH AND MONITORING</i>	18
<i>REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT</i>	20
<i>CONCLUSION</i>	22

INTRODUCTION

To make sure we're all working together on the same conservation course, the Missouri Department of Conservation met with citizens statewide to design this five-year plan, "State of Harmony." It will carry this agency into the twenty-first century and into our seventh decade of service to you, the citizens of Missouri.

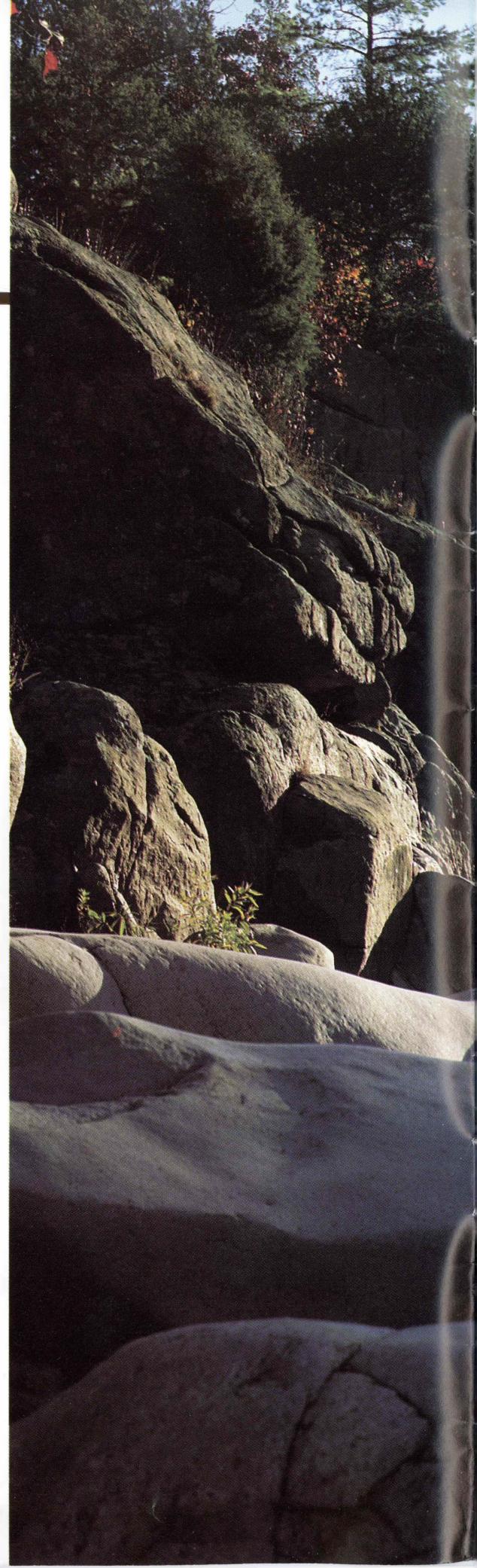
You and your parents and grandparents created this nonpolitical agency in 1937 to control, manage, restore, conserve and regulate the bird, fish, game, forests and all other wild resources of the state.

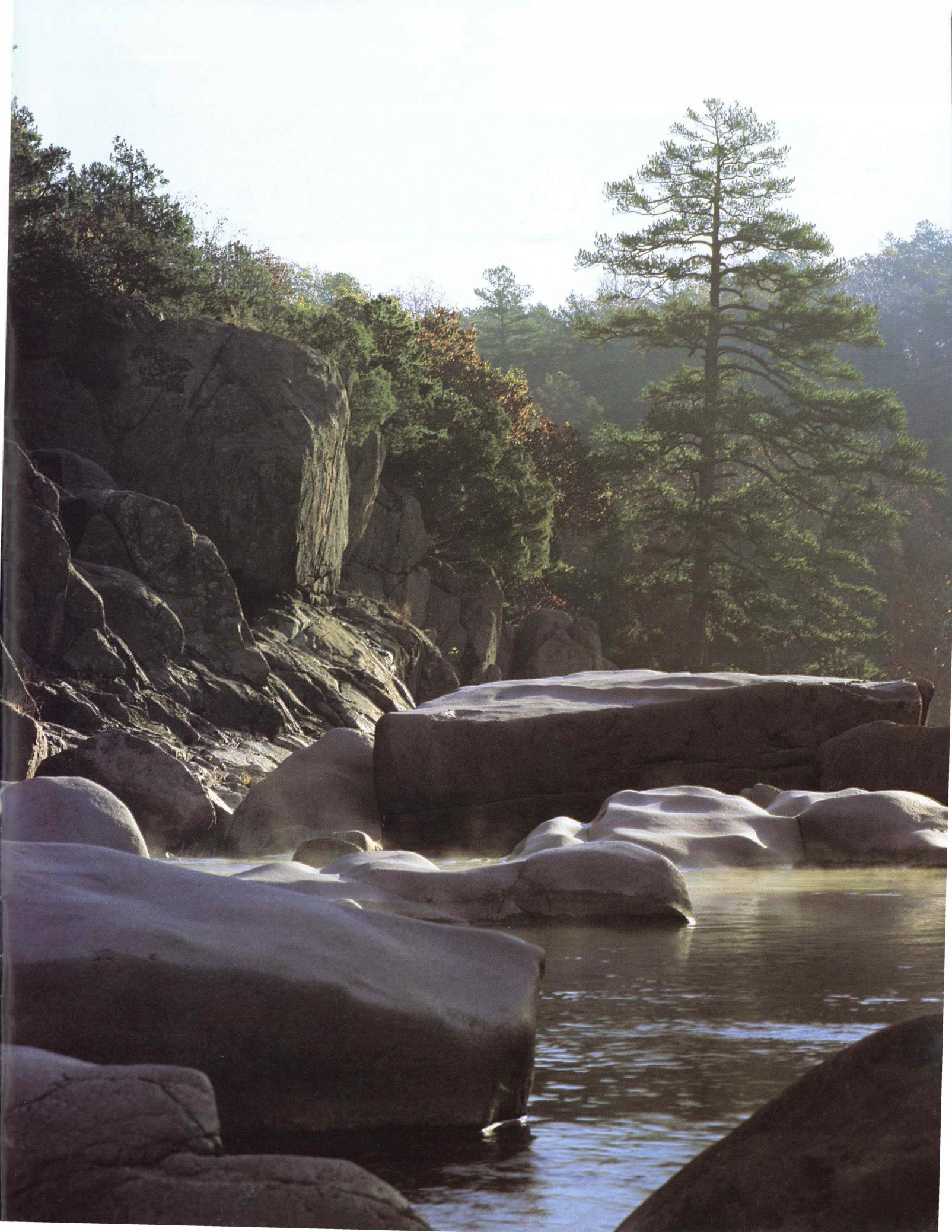
Wild resources were in bad shape back then. Deer and turkey were almost gone, and the forests had been overcut and abused. Thanks to scientific management and the citizen spirit that made it possible, we fixed what was broken.

The challenges that lie ahead are different, but just as dire. Pollution, habitat loss, poaching, encroaching development, expanding human populations, extinction — that's just a partial list of problems that mar Missouri's progress as the millennium approaches. Even with the resources and reputation of one of the foremost conservation agencies in the nation, we will need your help to fix what's broken and prevent further damage, now and in the future.

The distant shore of a new millennium looms ahead. It holds promise for a state where plant and animal communities thrive, where wild resources are used sustainably by citizens who understand and value them, and where citizens and agencies work together to harbor healthy resources for future generations.

This plan required taking a hard look at the state of the state's resources: what was hurt and how we could help. We've put together a plan for conservation that addresses some of the toughest problems of society and resource management. With your support, we'll challenge the future's treacherous rapids and pull together — for that distant, harmonious shore.





VISION: A STATE OF HARMONY

**“YOU CAN ROB
FROM NATURE
JUST THE SAME
WAY THAT YOU
CAN ROB FROM
ANY
INDIVIDUAL. IT
AIN’T JUST
ROBBIN’ FROM
NATURE. IT’S
ROBBIN’ FROM
FUTURE
GENERATIONS.”
—WILL ROGERS**

Otters have made a comeback in Missouri thanks to restocking and habitat improvement efforts.

The Vision: to manage fish, forest and wildlife resources so they will be in appreciably better condition tomorrow than they are today, that future generations may use and enjoy healthy, sustainable plant and animal communities throughout the state of Missouri.

THE ISSUES

What’s Happening to Our Environment?

The state of the state’s resources is generally good. Species like eagles, otters and peregrine falcons are making a comeback thanks to restocking and habitat improvement efforts. More than 20,000 Missourians have banded together as STREAM TEAMS to protect our state’s outstanding waterways. Liberal, regulated seasons and bag limits allow hunters and anglers to harvest healthy populations of fish and game. And Missouri’s forests are growing at a rate 25 percent faster than they are being cut.

But there are threats to the health of our fish, forests and wildlife. For example, the invasion of exotic species like the zebra mussel and gypsy moth could be very damaging to our water and forest resources.



Expanding urbanization and growing human populations continue to crowd out space for native plants and animals. Threatened and endangered species decline and disappear. Fish kills triggered by pollution and other factors are still common. And competing interests in wild resources make conflict over their use inevitable.

What Can We Do About It?

Public awareness of environmental problems is the single most important influence on a healthier state. Informed citizens can guard against exotic invaders that damage native plants and animals. They can guide their community’s growth to keep green space for plants and animals. They can work with the Conservation Department to save threatened and endangered species. They can pass and enforce laws that halt or prevent pollution. And informed citizens can understand and resolve conflicts over competing uses.

Informed citizens come from every area of the state and every walk of life. Children in grade school understand fundamental principles of conservation, as do their elders from every age group. With understanding comes commitment and action.

Economics and the Environment

“You can rob from nature just the same way that you can rob from any individual,” Will Rogers said. “It ain’t just robbin’ from nature. It’s robbin’ from future generations.”

Will Rogers wrote that during the Dust Bowl days of the Depression, when formerly fertile soil blew away mote by mote, leaving behind depleted land and impoverished people. He knew true wealth is bestowed by the land and the plants and animals — including people — who depend on it.

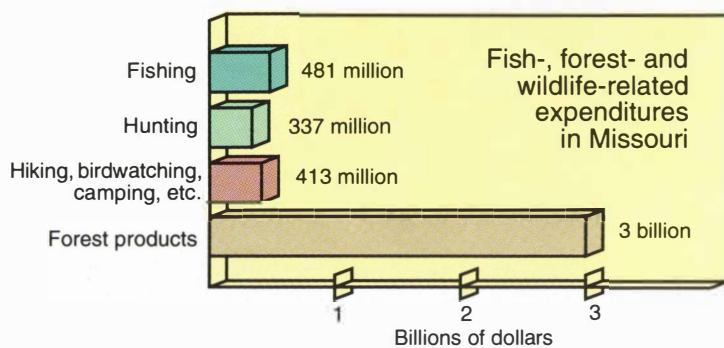


Studies have shown that more than two-thirds of Missourians believe protecting the environment and protecting one's livelihood go hand in hand. In Missouri, income related to fish, forests and wildlife supports industries worth 4.2 billion dollars. Resource-related tourism is up, and communities are cashing in on natural features that add to the beauty and income of their area.



Threats to the health of Missouri's fish, forests and wildlife: ABOVE, expanding urbanization and growing human populations continue to crowd out space for native plants and animals. FAR LEFT, fish kills triggered by pollution and other factors are still common. LEFT, the gypsy moth caterpillar could have a devastating impact on our forest resources and the wildlife that depend on them.

Enjoyment of outdoor Missouri benefits the state's economy. Income related to fish, forests and wildlife supports industries worth 4.2 billion dollars.



What Does the Future Hold For Missouri Resources?

The future of Missouri resources depends mostly on Missourians.

We're becoming a more **urban and suburban state**. Population trends show a gradual movement of people away from densely populated cities to suburban and formerly rural areas within commuting distance of their work. The farm population has declined by 36 percent since 1980.

People who are surrounded by concrete and condominiums are less likely to understand the cycles of growth and harvest than those surrounded by woods and water. The Conservation Department must continue to reach out to urbanites, extending to them a knowledge of nature they might not otherwise get.

Society is becoming more diverse, too. Minorities in Missouri have experienced a 10.6 percent population increase over the past decade, in contrast to a 3.2 percent increase for whites. Single parent and blended step-families are increasing. Twenty-three percent of the state's two million households now consist of a single woman with children.

The Conservation Department has a strong commitment **to serve all Missourians**, and to cultivate understanding of our resources no matter who we are or where we live. As society changes, the Conservation Department will change, too, reflecting the diversity of backgrounds and interests that strengthens the whole — the harmony — of people and wild resources.

What New Directions Will Help Accomplish This?

In the future, resource management will evolve from managing for individual species toward managing for whole ecological systems. Agencies that have responsibility for resource stewardship will cooperate on management plans for public lands in all regions of the state and blend that with management on private lands. This effort, called Coordinated Resource Management, will improve management efficiency, benefit natural communities, and make sure people's needs are part of the conservation equation.

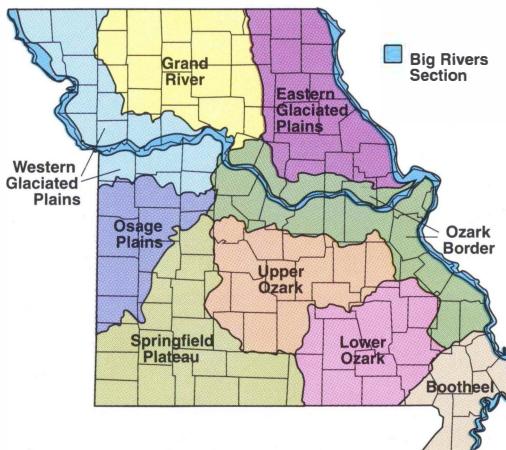
During the next five years, the Conservation Department will give more emphasis to **private landowners** and the programs that benefit them. Ninety-three percent of Missouri's land base is privately owned. More than any other agency or group, private landowners have the largest impact on the health of the land. The Conservation Department will develop programs that will be most helpful to profitable and sustainable land uses while addressing fish, forest and wildlife needs.

Coordinated Resource Management will benefit one of the state's most unique resources: **rivers and streams**. The Flood of 1993 focused renewed attention on the health of Missouri waterways. The Conservation Department will adopt a watershed approach to protecting streams, with special attention to the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and their damaged floodplains.

None of these efforts would be effective, however, without the **partnerships and participation** made possible by working with other agencies, organizations and individuals. Partnerships multiply the impact of individual effort; working together on tough problems just makes sense. Getting input from citizens also assures that the Conservation Department will never stray from serving our public as we strive to fulfill our mission in behalf of fish, forests and wildlife.



Coordinated Resource Management Sections



This Strategic Plan pays homage to those citizens who are partners and participants in the ongoing effort to bring conservation to every corner of the state. Each of the following sections features a profile on a Missourian dedicated to conservation.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead

New directions for the Conservation Department: **TOP**, more emphasis will be given to private landowners and the programs that benefit them. **ABOVE LEFT** (map), Coordinated Resource Management is a voluntary program to get government agencies and citizens working together to plan for the long-term health of Missouri’s natural resources. **ABOVE**, the Flood of ‘93 has renewed the Conservation Department’s focus on the health of all Missouri waterways, especially the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and their damaged floodplains.

THE GOALS FOR

PUBLIC LAND AND WATER

“THE BEST USE
OF LIFE IS TO
INVEST IT IN
SOMETHING
WHICH WILL
OUTLAST LIFE.”

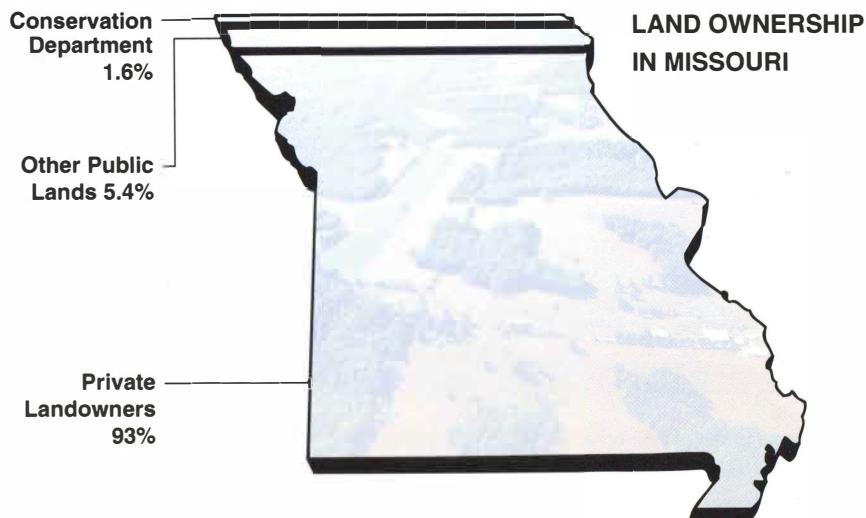
—WILLIAM

JAMES

The Goals

- Protect, sustain, enhance, restore or create fish, forest and wildlife communities on Conservation Department areas and other public land and water.
- Assure Conservation Department land and water are managed in a manner consistent with regional needs and capabilities.
- Increase opportunities for use of fish, forest and wildlife resources on all public lands.

Just over 3 million of the state's 44 million acres of land are in public ownership. The Mark Twain National Forest manages the most, with 1.5 million acres under its jurisdiction. The Conserva-



tion Department manages about 700,000 acres (only 1.3 percent of the total land base) for the citizens of the state and the benefit of their fish, forests and wildlife.

Public lands provide recreation, wildlife habitat, protection for rare and endangered species, forest products, management demonstration areas and many other uses. The

Conservation Department emphasizes looking at the “big picture” through Coordinated Resource Management when making management decisions. That means management teams look at entire regions — their recreation needs, soil types, forest cover, ecosystems, historic land uses and many other factors — before they make specific management plans. The public and other agencies with land management responsibilities are involved, so decisions on the future of public lands within each region are coordinated.

Land acquisition priorities for the Department of Conservation will be guided by similar considerations for the “big picture.” The Flood of 1993 created several opportunities for enhancing floodways and river habitat along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Alternatives to land acquisitions, such as easements, land trusts, donations and other programs will be explored to widen opportunities for large scale, harmonious land management.

Developing and maintaining existing Conservation Department lands will also be a priority for the next five years. Volunteers who want to get involved on their favorite Conservation Department areas will be recruited to make improvements on wildlife habitat, recreation facilities, clean-up projects and others.

Improved disabled accessibility and expanded opportunities for beginning anglers and hunters will help ensure diverse uses of Conservation Department lands. Land managers will increase opportunities for compatible activities like hiking, birding and nature study, so non-hunters and anglers can likewise explore and enjoy Conservation Department areas.

The benefits of a coordinated effort to manage public lands regionally should begin to be felt within the next five years. People who enjoy using public lands may not notice the subtle differences in the management of each area, but public land use region by region should improve statewide.

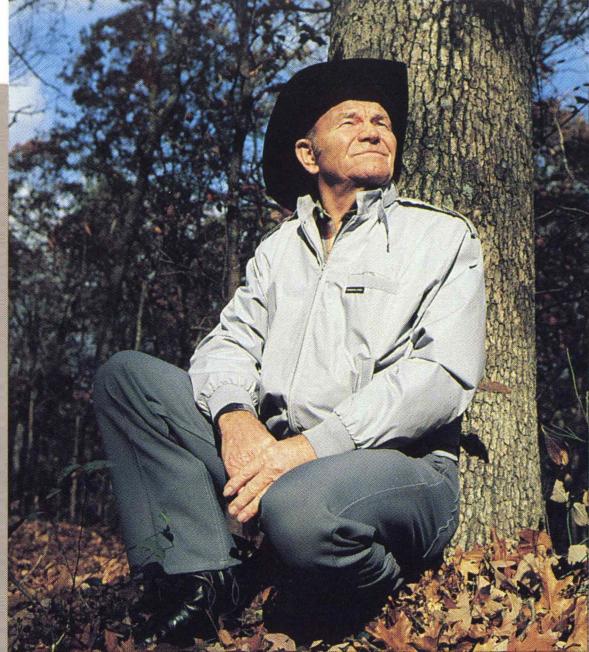
Chad Pope

User and Advocate for Public Land

Chad Pope spent his career as a forester managing about 80,000 acres of woodlands in Shannon County. It was owned by a large corporation until it was offered for sale to the Conservation Department in 1992. Pope oversaw timber harvest activities for the corporation until his retirement. He helped ensure that forest management was both profitable and sustainable.

"We took the biggest and left the rest to grow," Pope said. "It wasn't unusual to leave behind 14- to 16-inch trees for the next harvest." Pope has been retired for more than 10 years. His main interest now is seeing his grandsons grow up. He wants them to have opportunities to fish and hunt in the hills of Shannon County, too.

"I like the idea of the Conservation Department getting the land," Pope said. "They'll take care of it and the public can still use it. I'd rather see them have it than anybody else."



Public lands provide outdoor opportunities for all. Special hunts for disabled and youth hunters are held on public areas, and disabled accessibility on Conservation Department areas is improving statewide.

Examples

- Land that was damaged by the Flood of '93 is being acquired to provide floodwater storage capacity, homes for wildlife, bottomland timber and new fishing opportunities.
- In urban areas, local governments may get help from the Conservation Department to support greenways, wildlife corridors, trails and similar open spaces in cities.
- The Conservation Department will continue to sponsor programs to extend the recreational use of public lands through youth hunts, outdoor programs for women, and disabled accessible facilities.



Huge deposits of sand left by the Flood of '93 cost up to \$5,000 per acre to remove. The Conservation Department is acquiring flood-damaged lands (from willing sellers only) for floodways, habitat and bottomland timber.

THE GOALS FOR

PRIVATE LAND AND WATER

"WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF MATERIAL THINGS – OF TECHNIQUES AND PROCESSES, OF GOODS AND GADGETS. IT IS EASY TO FORGET IN SUCH A WORLD THAT WE STILL LIVE ONLY BECAUSE OF THE RESOURCES OF THE LAND."

—LEONARD HALL

The Goals

- Protect, sustain, enhance, restore or create fish, forest and wildlife communities on private land and water consistent with landowner needs.
- Improve cooperation and understanding between landowners and people who want to use fish, forest and wildlife resources.
- Improve protection and management of fish, forest and wildlife resources in the urban environment.

Missouri landowners are the most important conservation resource in the state. Land in private ownership accounts for about 93 percent of the total land mass. People own land for a wide variety of reasons and manage it for many different goals. Most land uses — even row cropping, livestock production, timber harvesting, recreation, commercial and residential use — can exist in harmony with nature.

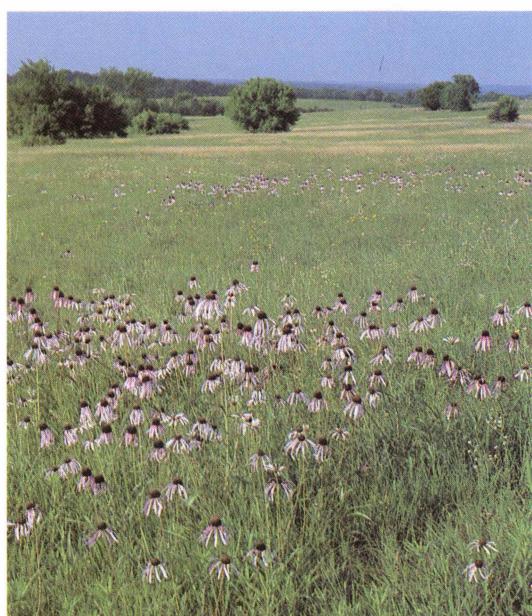
Conservation-minded landowners of Missouri deserve credit for making this state a national leader in resource quality and diversity. The Conservation Department helps those landowners get the benefits of working with nature through a variety of programs that will receive increased emphasis in the years ahead. Working in harmony with nature allows landowners to take good care of the land without sacrificing profitability.

The Conservation Department's approach will be multi-faceted: work with other state and federal agencies in adopting sustainable land use policies; provide direct technical assistance to landowners where feasible and desired; create incentives to encourage sustainable resource management on private land; and support landowner endeavors through information and education.

Education helps recreational users of private land understand the ethics and etiquette needed for harmony with landowners, too. Owners of private land extend a welcome only to those who use courtesy and common sense in the outdoors. The Conservation Department will step up its education efforts to reach recreationists with information about private property rights, trespass laws and ethics in the outdoors.

Even owners of small land holdings and urban dwellers will be able to get help from the Conservation Department. Programs, publications and videos will help landowners manage their land for wildlife, whether they have forty or one-fourth acres. Want to attract butterflies or bunnies? Help is available. Or maybe your home has become a haven for less-than-welcome wild critters; the Conservation Department can help control problem wildlife, too.

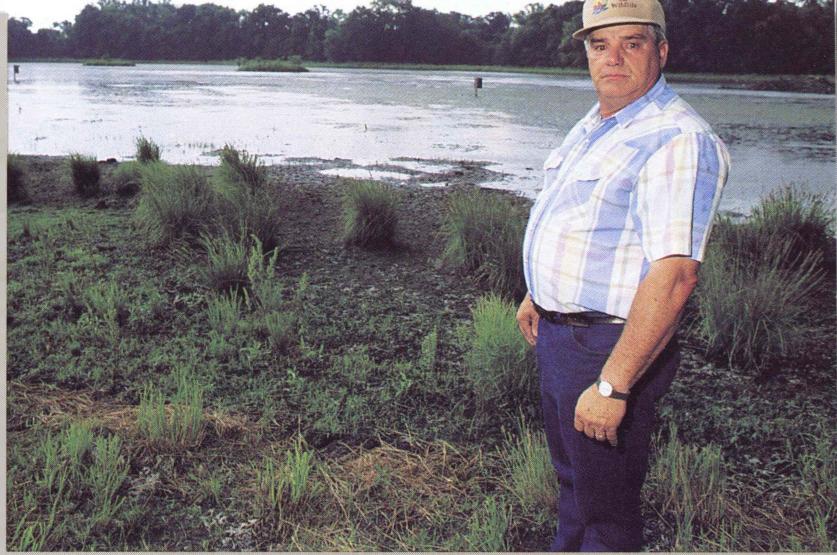
Working with private landowners is just one more example of the partnership approach for improving our state and its conservation potential.



Larry McCracken A Determined Landowner

Larry McCracken is an example of what a determined landowner can do. He converted a 20-acre bottomland on a Marion County creek into a wetland. He worked with the Conservation Department and three other agencies to build levees, install drains and plant food plots. The wetland will provide resting, nesting and feeding areas for migratory waterfowl.

"I love to see 'em," McCracken said. "I've got wood duck boxes up and goose tubs. I'm ready for 'em." On his own, he has built mounds for nesting and resting cover. His own small effort in north Missouri helps restore the 11 million wetland acres destroyed in Missouri since 1955.



Examples

- The "Partners for Prairie Wildlife" program works with landowners interested in restoring plant and animal species that once flourished in Missouri's vast prairie region.
- The Conservation Department offers Missourians the opportunity to buy at nominal cost a variety of trees and

shrubs to beautify and improve the value of their property.

- Landowners who find their valuable property washing downstream due to streambank erosion can get help from Conservation Department fisheries personnel.

Landowners don't have to sacrifice profitability when they work with Conservation Department personnel to manage their land for sustainable uses.

THE GOALS FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

“COME FORTH
INTO THE LIGHT
OF THINGS, LET
NATURE BE YOUR
TEACHER.”
—WILLIAM
WORDSWORTH

The Goals

- Enhance the awareness and understanding of conservation issues among all Missourians.
- Foster improved public awareness and understanding of the Conservation Department's mission, programs and services.

“**R**oadkill on the information superhighway” is how someone once described the consumer in an era of rapid communication changes. Whether you're networked, overworked, or both, the Conservation Department can reach you with the most up-to-date information about its programs and opportunities.

For the next five years, the Conservation Department will coordinate efforts to reach the widest and most diverse audiences possible with the good news and, sometimes, the bad. Gypsy moths threatening our forests? Species facing extinction? Only informed citizens can make the difference to resource health. Looking for a place to fish?

Want to know the name of a wildflower or how to conduct a timber harvest? User-friendly answers to common and not-so-common questions are available through the Conservation Department's extensive network of public information.

Technological innovations will be the hallmark of the millennium. Computer games, interactive databases, on-line news releases and the monthly *Conservationist* magazine are just a few examples of new ways to reach an expanding and diverse audience.

The Conservation Department renews its commitment to disseminating the most reliable and accurate information, in addition to providing up-to-date delivery systems.

Listening is as important a component of communication as informing. Using public meetings, surveys and interactive media, the Conservation Department will encourage direct citizen involvement in the management of their fish, forest and wildlife resources.

Examples

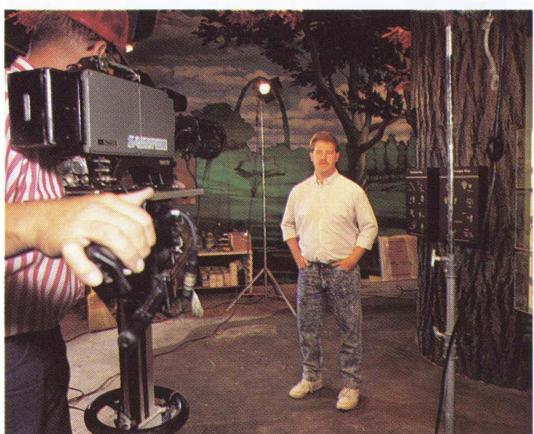
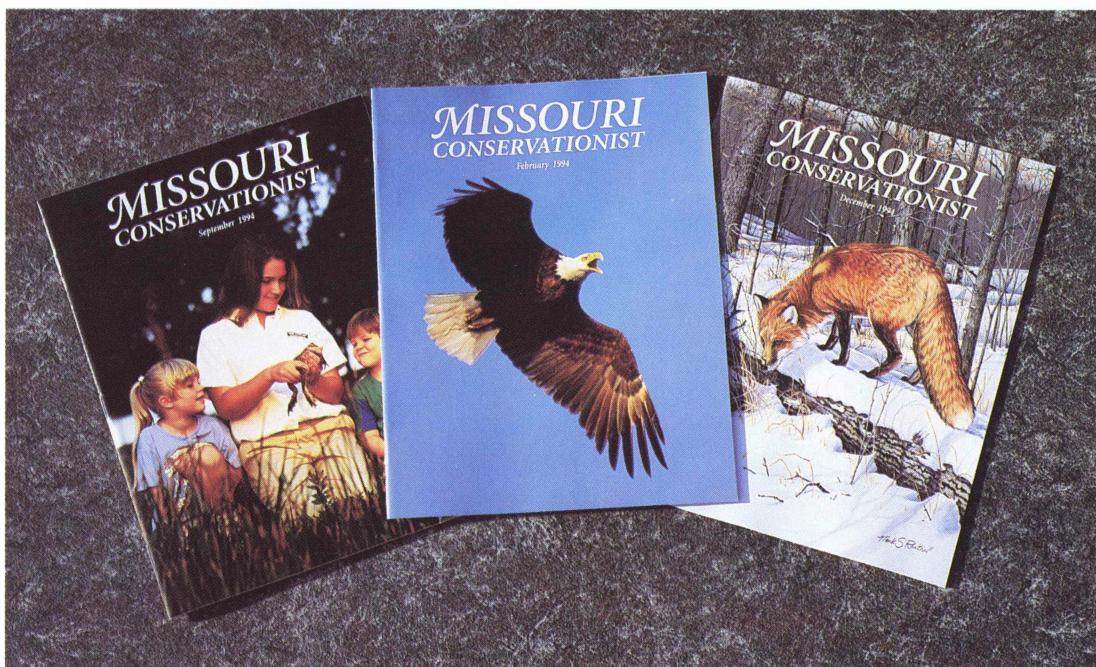
- Schoolchildren around the state can learn conservation concepts through a new interactive computer game, “Habitactics.” The game challenges kids to solve fish, forest or wildlife-related problems by manipulating habitat in a variety of ways.
- A comprehensive database of Conservation Department lands — their vital statistics, activities, species, facilities and regulations — will be launched in a user-friendly format to provide instant access to area facts.
- A handy reference book, *Missouri's Conservation Atlas — a guide to exploring your conservation lands*, is a large-scale driving atlas that features every county in the state. Each public access area will be listed, along with pertinent information on activities and facilities.



Kathy Etling Outdoor Communicator

Kathy Etling is a professional outdoor writer who uses Conservation Department information programs to reach and teach a diverse audience about everything from turkey harvest predictions to urban greenways.

Etling is an avid hunter and angler. Her articles regularly appear in *Outdoor Life* and she has a weekly outdoor call-in radio program in St. Louis. She relies on direct contact with the staff of Conservation Department experts, and refers to the weekly news releases, "All Outdoors," for some of her news stories and background information. Her thought-provoking articles on outdoor ethics and urban development in the Conservation Department's *Missouri Conservationist* magazine have won national recognition.



ABOVE, more than a million readers enjoy the free monthly Missouri Conservationist magazine for its fine photographs and articles that appeal to young and old alike.

LEFT, Kipp Woods, host of "Missouri Outdoors" TV show, has a statewide following for the Conservation Department's lively program that lets Missourians enjoy their state from the comfort of their own living rooms. Kids, far left, can have fun playing a video game while learning some fundamentals of conservation.

THE GOALS FOR EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

**“IN THE END WE
WILL CONSERVE
ONLY WHAT WE
LOVE; WE WILL
LOVE ONLY
WHAT WE
UNDERSTAND;
WE WILL
UNDERSTAND
ONLY WHAT WE
ARE TAUGHT.”**
—BABA DIOUM,
AFRICAN
ECOLOGIST.

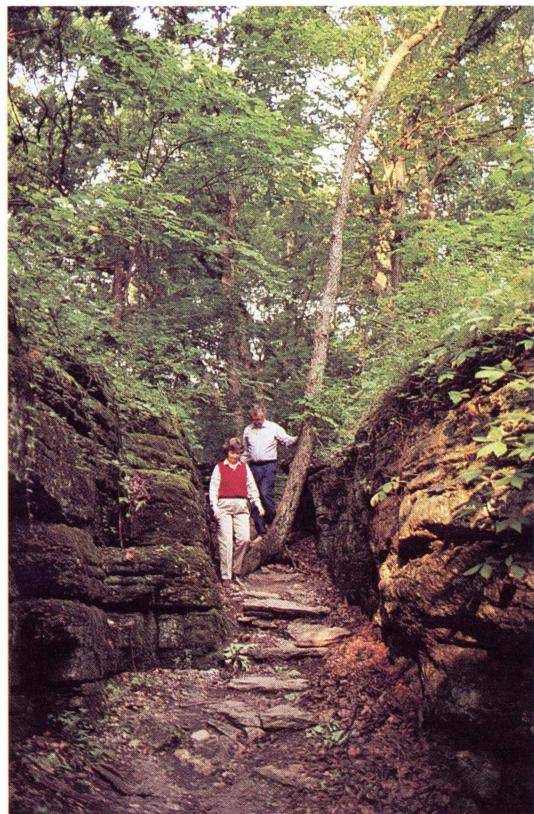
The Goals

- Increase knowledge and understanding among Missourians of fish, forest, wildlife resources and ecosystems, emphasizing the relationship of people to natural resources.
- Develop skill and understanding among Missourians interested in participating in conservation-related activities.

When people think of things they value — whether the things are material (like cars) or concepts (like conservation) — their value stems from direct, positive, personal experiences. Compare, for example, how a person who has never seen a prairie values it compared to one who has walked through a sea of grass garnished by wildflowers, smelled the fresh earth and seen the horizon kissed by a setting sun, much as the pioneers experienced it hundreds of years ago.

The dimension of being there — feeling, tasting, seeing, smelling, holding nature's gifts — is all too lacking in our urbanized society. The Conservation Department is increasing its commitment to providing opportunities for people to have direct, positive interactions with nature. The opportunities take a variety of forms: nature centers, outdoor classrooms, hunter skills courses, and many others. The opportunities encompass a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities. Children in an inner-city classroom can study how a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly. Seniors can walk a paved trail to see spring wildflowers. Hunters and anglers can learn how their activities fulfill human needs while sustaining healthy fish and wildlife populations.

Education and interpretation are like two hands working together: they reach out to new ideas, then clasp and bring them close to see, feel and understand.



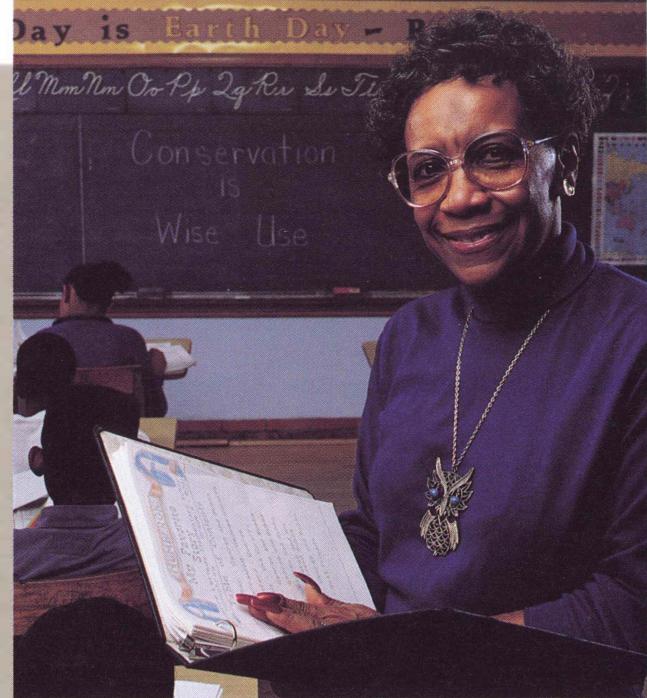
TOP, women can get hands-on experience in the shooting sports at Conservation Department-sponsored events like "Becoming an Outdoorswoman." ABOVE, nature trails offer easy access to young and old alike.

Pauline Humphrey Conservation Educator

Pauline Humphrey is a teacher at Pierre Laclede Elementary School in north St. Louis. She's committed to teaching children who are surrounded by the city the beauty and opportunity of nature.

With help from the Conservation Department, neighbors and school children, Humphrey transformed a vacant city lot into a garden for flowers and produce. In 1984, the 5,000-square-foot lot was littered with junked cars, bricks and mattresses. But with elbow grease and lots of cooperation, it is now a place where math students figure the size of the radish patch or the growth rate of a zucchini. Science students learn about photosynthesis, and English students compose essays or write poems.

"You can sit here and forget you're in the city," observed Humphrey, whose goal is to teach children about conserving resources. "We talk about conserving water at home and outside. We talk a lot about natural cycles and the connection of people to their environment."



One of the Conservation Department's goals is to get more people involved in the outdoors to learn about and value their natural resources. The Conservation Department helps schools establish "outdoor classrooms," LEFT, where students in every grade and subject can benefit from the lessons of nature.

Examples

- "Becoming an Outdoorswoman" is the name of a successful program aimed at getting more women involved in traditional outdoor pursuits. About 100 women participate in these weekend workshops where they learn to shoot, hunt, fish, canoe and participate in many other skills.
- Art teachers can get new, free conservation-related curriculum material that will

provide nature knowledge their students can "draw" on for a lifetime.

- Teachers statewide are taking advantage of STREAM TEAM and Water Quality Monitoring Training opportunities to introduce their students to the principles of aquatic health. Students learn about organisms' dependence on water and as a result become advocates for clean rivers and streams.

THE GOALS FOR RESEARCH AND MONITORING

“**LIKE THE
WINDS AND
SUNSETS, WILD
THINGS WERE
TAKEN FOR
GRANTED UNTIL
PROGRESS
BEGAN TO DO
AWAY WITH
THEM”**

—ALDO LEOPOLD

Citizens are becoming active partners in monitoring the health of the state's resources, particularly through highly successful programs like STREAM TEAMS.

The Goals

- Maintain a strong scientific basis for the conservation of fish, forests and wildlife.
- Incorporate social and economic values when developing and monitoring Conservation Department programs and services.

Subjects tackled by Conservation Department researchers and surveyors will undergo substantial changes during the next five years, as efforts evolve from species-oriented research to ecosystem research. This broader approach to fish, forest and wildlife health will allow foresters and biologists to cross disciplinary lines and work with other agencies to tackle tough management dilemmas. Ecosystem-wide research will provide an overview of the health and harmony of a wide variety of

natural communities, from rivers and streams to forests, prairies, glades and savannahs.

The other research component receiving emphasis is a commitment to finding out public needs and desires. This approach will deliver the best customer service for our taxpaying public while fulfilling the Conservation Department mandate to protect, restore and enhance the fish, forest and wildlife resources of the state.

Citizens are becoming active partners in monitoring the health of the state's resources, particularly through highly successful programs like STREAM TEAMS. These citizen activists adopt portions of streams, conduct inventories of the stream's features, monitor its quality and make recommendations for improvements. This partnership approach to research and monitoring expands the ability to gather research data and puts people to work on the resources they value.



Elizabeth Clubine Advocate for Streams

Elizabeth Clubine of Columbia was just 11 years old when she launched her one-girl crusade in behalf of streams. Then she got her 4-H Club involved and together they formed STREAM TEAM 222, which tackled the tough problems of a local stream. Her efforts in behalf of stream health won her the President's Environmental Youth Award presented by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"It's like we live in a big aquarium," Elizabeth wrote in an essay. "Our water is our life! As fish need clean water to survive, so does every man, woman and child."

Elizabeth began to learn about water quality in 1990 from a Conservation Department education consultant. On 4-H field trips, the young people examined aquatic life and tested water quality in several Jasper County creeks. Then they conducted trash pick-ups, met with city officials, and challenged an Army Corps of Engineers proposal to channelize part of the stream.

The Conservation Department now trains citizens statewide in water quality monitoring techniques so groups like STREAM TEAM 222 can continue to make a difference to the health of Missouri streams.



Examples

- Urban Missourians will be invited to share their views on the growing urban deer population. Together with Conservation Department biologists, they'll hammer out solutions to conflicts between people and deer.
- Bobcats were once common throughout northern Missouri, but population, farming and harvest pressure eliminated them. Conservation Department biologists will begin a program to restore bobcats to their historic ranges in north Missouri.
- Fisheries biologists will determine the public's knowledge and attitudes concerning aquatic resources in order to design programs that meet their needs and desires.



ABOVE, LEFT, Conservation Department biologists will begin a program to restore bobcats to their historic ranges in north Missouri.

ABOVE, research done by biologists and foresters will be combined with research from other agencies to generate broader, ecosystem-wide approaches to the health of fish, forests and wildlife.

THE GOALS FOR REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

“A TOWN IS
SAVED NOT
MORE BY THE
RIGHTEOUS MEN
IN IT THAN BY
THE WOODS AND
SWAMPS THAT
SURROUND IT.”
—HENRY DAVID
THOREAU

The Goals

- Protect the fish, forest and wildlife resources of the state.
- Ensure safe and responsible use and enjoyment of Missouri's fish, forests and wildlife resources.

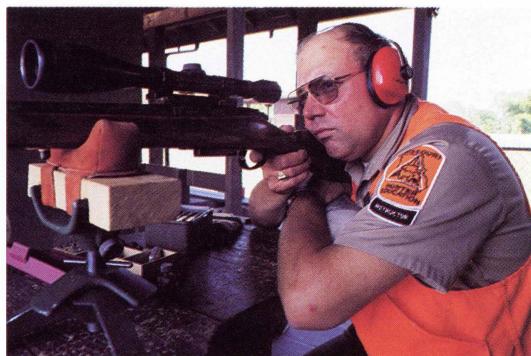
The regulation and enforcement activities of the Conservation Department are guided by resource protection needs, public demand and public safety. Liberal seasons and bag limits are the result of scientific management and citizen support. Although forces outside Missouri contribute to the health or decline of many migratory species of wildlife, those populations that live and breed within Missouri have benefited from more than 50 years of scientific management. Regulations that govern the harvest of game animals rely on the most up-to-date information regarding habitat conditions and population levels; they are liberal, yet protective.

Conservation agents in every county are on the front lines — meeting the public, educating and enforcing regulations. They can help landowners attract wildlife, clarify

regulations for sportsmen, get kids interested in hunting and fishing, and help everyone have a safe experience in Missouri's outdoors.

Examples

- Not everyone who hunts is able-bodied. A special Hunting Method Exemption Program allows disabled hunters the opportunity to use special equipment to assist them. And, special hunts are held annually around the state to provide quality outdoor experiences for disabled hunters.
- Recreational shooting is a growing outdoor hobby. The Conservation Department creates shooting ranges across the state, so recreational shooters can have a safe, controlled environment to hone their skills.
- Hunter skills classes are conducted by more than 1,000 volunteer instructors. Expanded seminars will be developed on hunting white-tailed deer, fall turkey, squirrel, upland game and waterfowl, as well as using primitive weapons, shotgun, rifle and bow.



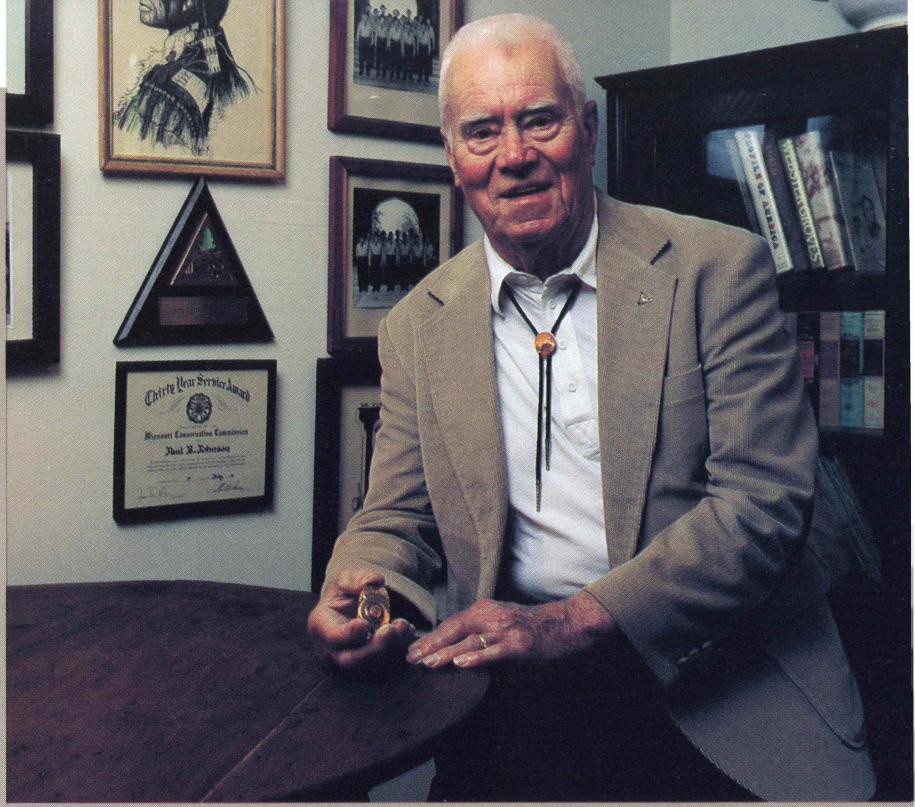
LEFT, conservation agents enforce fish and wildlife laws. ABOVE, volunteer hunter skills instructors educate citizens statewide about safe, ethical hunting.

Paul Johnson

Paul Johnson entered the conservation agent class of 1940, competing against 336 other applicants for one of the ten slots to be filled. For the grand sum of \$100 per month, this "rookie brush cop" arrested seiners, market hunters and other ne'er-do-wells.

"I was offered bribes two times," Johnson recalled. "The second time, four guys from Illinois were hunting here with resident permits. As I was issuing the ticket, one of them offered me money, saying, 'This is how we do it in Illinois.' That gave me the perfect opportunity to say, 'Sorry, mister, you're in Missouri now.'"

"I like to think I helped the Conservation Department become the envy of every other state. Our agents were involved in total resource management, not just law enforcement. Being a conservation agent is a cause, not just a job."



Conservation agents are on the front lines of public information. Agents in every county of the state present school programs, produce newspaper columns and radio shows, and meet one-on-one with landowners to discuss specific needs for the fish, forests and wildlife of the area. At events like county fairs and "Evenings with Wildlife," agents share their broad knowledge of managing land for the benefit of people and the wildlife they enjoy.

CONCLUSION

In 1976 the Conservation Department received citizen approval for an expanded program made possible by a one-eighth of one percent sales tax. The program was called "Design for Conservation." It included creation of a Natural History Division to manage non-game wildlife, plants and endangered species. Design for Conservation also called for an expanded land acquisition program to set aside areas in every county of the state for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. These and other goals — conservation nature centers, natural areas, close-to-home fishing, stream accesses, to name a few — are making positive contributions to Missourians' quality of life.

Design for Conservation served its purpose well. The programs it introduced are well-established and ongoing. Its solid foundation prepared the Conservation Department for today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

As the Conservation Department goes about its day-to-day job of creating harmony between people and the land, we renew our commitment to the citizens of Missouri and the wild resources you value.



“ON A STILL NIGHT SIT QUIET AND LISTEN, AND THINK
HARD OF EVERYTHING YOU HAVE SEEN AND TRIED TO
UNDERSTAND. THEN YOU MAY HEAR IT — A VAST
PULSING HARMONY — ITS SCORE INSCRIBED ON A
THOUSAND HILLS, ITS NOTES THE LIVES AND DEATHS OF
PLANTS AND ANIMALS, ITS RHYTHMS SPANNING THE
SECONDS AND THE YEARS.”

—ALDO LEOPOLD





The Missouri Department of Conservation uses Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Because the state utilizes these federal funds, it must comply with federal anti-discrimination law. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the federal government prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to:

The Office for Human Resources
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

and

Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180